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The Romano L. Mazzoli Papers Project at the University of Louisville Archives and Records Center

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Cuadra Associates Helps Roosevelt University Expand Public Access to Its Archives: New Software Key to Expansion

Roosevelt University, founded in 1945 to foster the democratic ideals and values of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, is taking advantage of new archives management software to provide public access to its archives. Its extensive catalog of archival materials has now been made available on the Internet through STAR Knowledge Center for Archives (SKCA), a product of Los Angeles-based Cuadra Associates. The software supports the rapid description of archival materials and provides for easy searching for materials over the Internet.

The organization of Roosevelt's archival materials did not begin in earnest until 2007, and about 20 percent of the University's collection has been processed to date. Having first focused on the description of their photographic collection, archivists are now concentrating on a series of document collections in their backlog.

University Archivist Laura Mills credits SKCA with enabling Roosevelt to pick up the pace of describing its collections, as well as supporting the release of an attractive public-access catalog.

"The appearance of our public-access catalog is welcoming and straightforward," Mills said. "University staff members tell me that they like it. We can already see that both our users over the Internet and University staff members will enjoy the benefits of using this tool because they can get to the descriptions, photographs, and images that they want easily and quickly. And SKCA's 'Advanced Search page' helps them to limit their retrieval to only the materials that are relevant to their needs."

Mills introduced the new catalog to Roosevelt faculty and staff through a series of orientation meetings and in an announcement on the University's internal newsletter. To call additional attention to the University's unique collection, she also posted an announcement about the catalog on Roosevelt's Facebook page and blog. See <https://roosevelt.cuadra.com/starweb1/l.skca-catalog/servlet.starweb1?path=l.skca-catalog/skacatalog.web>.

The Romano L. Mazzoli Papers Project at the University of Louisville Archives and Records Center

Kathie Johnson, Archivist for Manuscript Collections

From 1971-1995, Louisville native Romano L. "Ron" Mazzoli, Democrat, represented the Third Congressional District (Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky) in the United States House of Representatives. While in Congress, Mazzoli was Chairman of the House of Representatives' Immigration, International Law and Refugees Subcommittee and served on the Small Business, Intelligence and District of Columbia Committees. He was the primary architect, with Senator Alan Simpson, of major immigration reform legislation, signed into law on November 7, 1986, by then President Ronald Reagan.

The Mazzoli Papers Project consists of several components, including the processing of the Congressman's papers, an oral history project, and the refurbishing and naming of the University Archives and Records Center's reading room. Adapting "More Product, Less Process," the arrangement and description of the papers took approximately two and a half years, with Project Assistant Kevin Collins working

15-20 hours per week under the supervision of Archivist for Manuscript Collections Kathie Johnson. Retention decisions were based on series: for some, everything was kept; others, such as "case files," were sampled with approximately 10% retained; and in others, such as military academy nominations, only those that actually received a recommendation from the Congressman were kept. Readily available published material was also not retained. The collection arrived in 1995 at almost 1,500 linear feet, and was pared down to 600. The material dates from the 1920s through 2010, with the bulk of the Papers dating from 1968 through 1995. A box-level inventory to the collection is available on-line at <http://louisville.edu/library/archives/findingaids/mazzoli.html>, and a folder-level finding aid is in process.

The oral history component of this project included 67 hours of interviews. Almost 30 of those hours were with

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through the medium of speechmaking. Because of this, his extensive body of speeches comprises a wide and deep pool of documentary evidence illuminating American political and social history from the end of World War II through the end of the Vietnam War.

As his longtime colleague and adversary, Senator Strom Thurmond, eulogized Humphrey's public oratory, "Here, then, is the nation's true consolation: That voice that could not be silenced in life—that famous, unmistakable voice, instantly recognized throughout the land—will not be silenced in death. Hubert Humphrey will go on talking down the ages, to us, to our descendents, as long as the Republic endures."

The Romano L. Mazzolie Papers

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Mr. Mazzoli himself and cover a variety of topics, including his Italian ancestry and family history, his childhood years and education, his political and non-political careers, and important subjects and people in his life. The other 37 hours of interviews were with his immediate family, his Louisville and Washington staff, some of his campaign volunteers, and colleagues in the Congress. These interviews were conducted to present the Congressman as he was viewed by others, including his wife and children; his assistants, secretaries, and case workers; and his peers in the government. Some of these interviews are also available on-line at <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/mazzoli/>, with more to follow.

The collection and newly renovated Romano L. Mazzoli Reading Room were officially opened on November 8, 2011.



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